REMARKS

The Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action mailed August 27, 2004. The Applicants originally submitted claims 1-27 in this application. By the present Response and Amendment, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 11, 15, 18 and 24, and canceled claims 6, 14 and 23. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-22, and 24-27 remain pending in this application. The Applicants have not introduced any new matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11-14, 18-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kidder et al. (US Patent No. 6,445,774). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks set forth below.

The Applicants' have amended independent claims 1, 11 and 18 to more clearly recite the Applicants' invention. The Applicants' invention as recited in the claims includes a method and system for managing status notification messages (e.g., messages that detect/report device and network abnormalities) within communication networks. As a result of the claim amendments, the Applicants' method includes the step of retrieving a stored set of processing rules to correlate the notification messages with one or more managed correlation orbs (relational groupings) according to the designation established by the set of processing rules. The system includes a storage device configured to provide the set of processing rules for correlating the notification messages and means for retrieving the set of processing rules. Support for the claim amendments is found, e.g., in Figure 3 (rules for processing notification messages 312); in Figure 4 (retrieving step 404 and determining step 406); at paragraph 11, 4th sentence; at paragraph 37, 1st sentence; at paragraph 38, 1st sentence; and at paragraph 39, 2nd sentence.

Kidder et al. (US Patent No. 6,445,774) disclose an automated method and system for processing and disseminating alarm report information generated during the monitoring of a communication system. A network management system (separate system from the communication system) generates alarm reports and provides them to network monitors (usually humans), who select alarm reports for grouping together as an event report. An automated workflow system automates the workflow of the network monitors, including incorporating the network site and topology information.

However, nothing in Kidder et al. teaches or suggests the storage and use of a set of processing rules for correlating the received notification messages with managed correlation orbs and for determining or designating to which correlation orb the notification messages corresponds. As pointed out by the Examiner, Kidder et al. disclose an event database that stores created event reports. However, in Kidder et al., the event reports are created as the possible error events occur, and the event records subsequently are stored as database records. The contents of the event reports are historical information about the event, not processing rules for correlating the events to one or more correlation orbs. The Applicants respectfully submit that the event reports in Kidder et al. are not suggestive of a set of established processing rules for correlating notification messages with managed correlation orbs and determining which correlation orb the notification messages correspond to. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that there is no direct or even remote comparison between the applicants' preexisting set of correlation rules and the event reports generated in Kidder et al.

The Examiner states that the language at col. 11, lines 56-66 of Kidder et al. discloses the Applicants' use of processing rules to correlate the notification messages with one or more managed correlation orbs. The cited language specifically recites that the "network monitor can observe a certain geographic region and can view alarms generated from their assigned region." The Examiner states that, based on this language, the Applicants' use of processing rules is taught because "one rule is to group events by geographic region." The Applicants' respectfully submit that nothing in the cited language teaches the use of processing rules. The Examiner is attempting to establish a rule based on the cited language, which language happens to disclose the behavior of the network monitor, not a set of processing rules to be followed by the network monitor. Nothing in the cited language suggests the use of an established set of processing rules to determine which notification messages are to be correlated with which managed correlation orbs. The Examiner's interpretation of the network monitor's observation of a plurality of alarms from a similar geographic area clearly is not suggestive of the Applicants' use of a set of processing rules stored prior to the occurrence of any notification messages and retrieved upon such occurrence for the purpose of correlating the notification messages with one or

more managed correlation orbs. Moreover, there is nothing in Kidder et al. beyond the Examiner's cited language that discloses or suggests the use of a set of processing rules for this purpose.
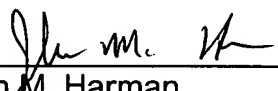
Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Kidder et al. do not teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as recited in the Applicants' claims, as amended. Therefore, the Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11-14, 18-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kidder et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 7-10, 15-17, 22 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kidder et al., in view of Roytman et al. (US Patent No. 6,356,282). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks set forth below. As just discussed, the Applicants' invention as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 18, as amended, is not discloses or suggested by Kidder et al. Roytman et al., which is cited for its teaching of a network monitoring system for viewing alarms, does not cure the deficiencies of Kidder et al. with respect to the Applicants' invention as recited in the claims, as amended. Claims 4 and 7-10 depend from claim 1, claims 15-17 depend from claim 11, and claims 22 and 24-27 depend from claim 18. Therefore, claims 4, 7-10, 15-17, 22 and 24-27 are allowable at least for all of the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, claims 4, 7-10, 15-17, 22 and 24-27 include other features that, when combined with the subject matter of their respective independent claims, are not disclosed or suggested by Kidder et al. or any of the other cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments submitted herein and the above comments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly solicit early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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